

ORIGINAL

OPEN MEETING AGENDA ITEM



0000168148

92425 E Aravaipa Rd
Winkelman, AZ 85192

January 28, 2016

RECEIVED

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AZ CORP COMMISSION
DOCKET CONTROL

Commissioner Andy Tobin
Arizona Corporation Commission
Commissioners Wing
1200 West Washington St – 2nd Floor
Phoenix, AZ 85007

Arizona Corporation Commission

DOCKETED

FEB 01 2016

Re: Docket Number L-00000YY-15-0318-00171

DOCKETED BY

KL

Dear Commissioner Tobin:

We are landowners and residents on the west side of Aravaipa Canyon whose properties lie along Aravaipa Creek, the major tributary of the San Pedro River. As fellow residents of the San Pedro River watershed, we share the concern of our neighbors about the potential location of the SunZia Transmission Line along the west side of the San Pedro River Valley.

We are writing you to express our **strong opposition** to the decision of the Power Plant and Transmission Line Siting Committee to approve a Certificate of Environmental Compatibility for the SunZia Transmission Project.

The San Pedro River is the last undammed river in the desert southwest and its rare riparian habitat supports a crucial migratory bird route and a multitude of wildlife species. This project would open an entirely new corridor in the valley, fragmenting wildlife linkages, and inviting further development. The relatively intact ecosystem in the valley has attracted important conservation investments in order to mitigate development elsewhere. This project would not only devalue those investments but it would make the valley less valuable for future mitigation investment. Future projects in areas designated for growth that require mitigation for approval would find it more difficult, if not impossible, to locate the necessary mitigation properties without an intact San Pedro Valley.

There is no justification for the environmental damage this project would inflict on the San Pedro River Valley. First, the SunZia Transmission Line has been deceptively marketed as a renewable energy project while it most likely will carry energy produced by fossil fuels. Even if there was any way to guarantee that it would primarily carry renewable energy, Arizona's capacity to develop its own renewable energy exceeds our need by several orders of magnitude. Importing it from New Mexico is not only unnecessary, but harmful to in-state renewable energy development for our own use and even for export. Nor do we need to

harm our environment in order to transmit energy from New Mexico to California. That state is also poised to meet its own renewable energy needs.

Finally, the SunZia Transmission Project competes with a far better and much preferred alternative, the Southline Transmission Project, which will be coming up for your consideration in the near future.

For these reasons, we strongly urge you to make the right decision for the citizens of Arizona and reject the Certificate of Environmental Compatibility for the SunZia Transmission Project.

Sincerely,

Charles Allen, 88675 E Aravaipa Rd, Winkelman, AZ 85192
Sherrie Brasell, 90195 E Aravaipa Rd, Winkelman, AZ 85192
Polly Choate, 88180 E Aravaipa Rd, Winkelman, AZ 85192
Richard Choate, 88180 E Aravaipa Rd, Winkelman, AZ 85192
Kelly Glenn, 88225 E Aravaipa Rd, Winkelman, AZ 85192
Catherine Gorman, 92425 E Aravaipa Rd, Winkelman, AZ 85192
Phil Hedrick, 92425 E Aravaipa Rd, Winkelman, AZ 85192
Sandra Knox, 88225 E Aravaipa Rd, Winkelman, AZ 85192
Beverly Leys, 88866 E Aravaipa Rd, Winkelman, AZ 85192
George Leys, 88866 E Aravaipa Rd, Winkelman, AZ 85192
Richard Manch, 3116 N 52nd St, Phoenix, AZ 85018
Raimie Manch, 3116 N 52nd St, Phoenix, AZ 85018
Joanna Martin, 88675 E Aravaipa Rd, Winkelman, AZ 85192
Patti Unger, 88145 E Aravaipa Rd, Winkelman, AZ 85192
Paul Unger, 88145 E Aravaipa Rd, Winkelman, AZ 85192
Bill Walker, 89084 E Aravaipa Rd, Winkelman, AZ 85192
Penny Walker, 89084 E Aravaipa Rd, Winkelman, AZ 85192

6035 North Canyon Road
Benson, AZ 85602
January 25, 2016


Commissioner Andy Tobin
Arizona Corporation Commission
Commissioner's Wing
1200 West Washington Street 2nd Floor
Phoenix, AZ 85007

Dear Commissioner Tobin:

I am writing to tell you that I am opposed to the building of the SunZia power line through the San Pedro River Valley. I am not going to take up your valuable time by telling you the many reasons why building this power line in this place is a very bad idea; you have undoubtedly heard already all of the things that I could say plus much more on this topic. What I would like to point out is that the San Pedro River Valley is the last of the major river valleys in the state, as well as in the American west, that has not been developed, and as such is an extremely valuable resource. Because this valley is the last of its kind, it should be preserved as it is, without any further development. That way it could be used as an example of how environmental conservation, the preservation of archaeological sites, outdoor recreational activities such as hunting, and ranching and other agricultural operations could all coexist. By preserving this valley as it is today, we would be able to show our grandchildren, and they could show their grandchildren, just a glimpse of what the world looked like before it became completely developed. There are lots of places where this power line could be built, but there is only one San Pedro River Valley. Let's preserve what we have while it is still there.

Thanks very much for your consideration.

Sincerely,



Robert D. Evans

January 4, 2016

Commissioner Andrew Tobin
Arizona Corporation Commission
1200 W. Washington
Phoenix, AZ 85007-2996

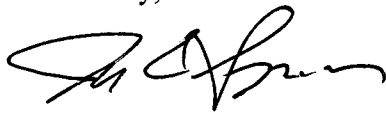
Dear Commissioner Tobin:

Congratulations on your recent appointment to the Commission, and thank you for your distinguished service to Arizona.

The SunZia transmission line project will soon require your consideration. Please review the enclosed copy of a letter that I submitted to the SunZia docket last September.

Thank you for your time, and please feel welcome to contact me for clarification or discussion.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jon C. Sjogren", with a stylized, flowing script.

Jon C. Sjogren

110 W. Meadowbrook Dr.
Tucson, AZ 85704-6712
(520) 297-8582
sjogren.jc@comcast.net

September 21, 2015

Docket No. L-00000YY-15-0318-00171

Arizona Power Plant and Transmission Line Siting Committee
Arizona Corporation Commission
1200 W. Washington
Phoenix, AZ 85007-2996

Subject: Local Transmission and Use Instead of SunZia

SunZia touts four main benefits: more power; access to renewables; increased transmission reliability; and, jobs. Considering these benefits, why not local transmission and use instead of SunZia? Attached is a BLM map that shows the Obama-expedited SunZia plan, and solar and wind resources. To show a local plan, I modified that map by crossing out SunZia and by adding the arrows and cities.

First, let's consider the benefit of more power: Arizona exports about one third of the electricity it generates, so it doesn't need SunZia's power.

Second benefit, access to renewables: The Arizona portion of SunZia accesses a distant solar patch, surrounding a proposed gas power plant that would use a third of SunZia's capacity. The local plan accesses abundant solar resources close to Phoenix, Tucson, and the Pinal Substation, where spent farmland is ideal for planting solar collectors.

Third benefit, increased transmission reliability: You don't increase transmission reliability by running 500-mile transmission lines from completely unreliable wind-energy sources. And you don't do it by running those lines through an extremely challenging and insecure environment. You increase reliability with the local plan of short-distance lines, over flat terrain, from reliable solar sources.

Fourth benefit, jobs: With SunZia, Arizona gets a few line-construction jobs. With the local plan it gets a solar industry, drawing from the resources and workforces of Tucson and Phoenix.

Along with the advertised benefits, some have claimed that SunZia could be used to export Arizona's solar energy eastward. But SunZia has specified westward transmission only. More importantly, it's premature to plan the exportation of a product that remains undeveloped. Arizona has to walk before it can run with its solar power, and by generating less than one percent of its electricity from solar, Arizona is just starting to crawl.

SunZia should not be built. Arizona should go local instead.

Jon C. Sjogren

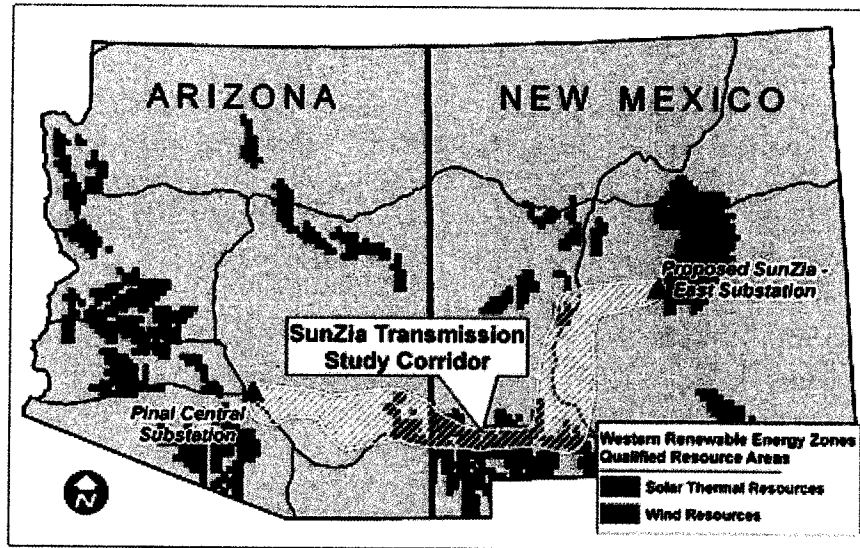
110 W. Meadowbrook Dr.
Tucson, AZ 85704-6712
(520) 297-8582
sjogren.jc@comcast.net

Attached: Single page displaying maps and cited references.

“SunZia Line Earns Obama Recognition”

“SunZia ... selected to undergo a fast-track permitting process by the federal government.” [1]

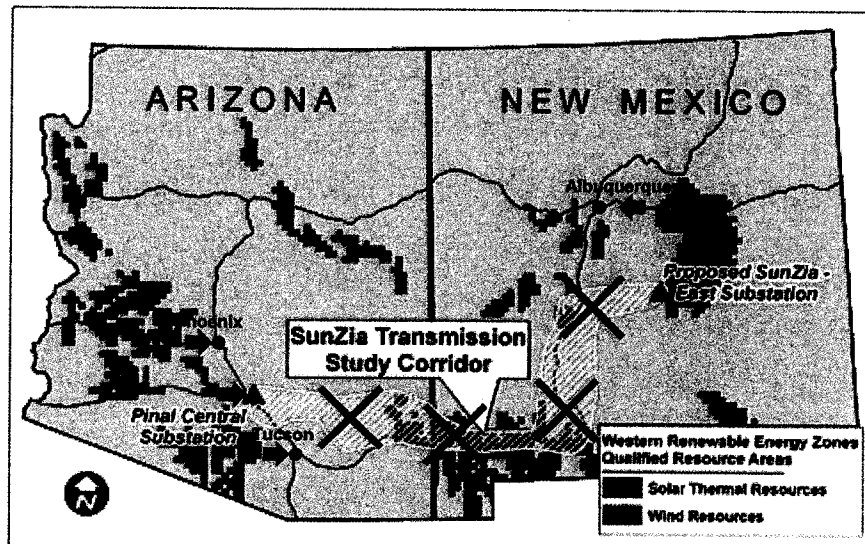
SunZia-Obama Plan [2]:



Why Not Local Transmission and Use Instead of SunZia?

Less than 1% of Arizona’s electricity is solar generated, and only 5% of New Mexico’s electricity is wind generated. [3]

Non-Political Local Plan:



1. <http://www.snl.com/InteractiveX/ArticleAbstract.aspx?id=13414962>
2. http://www.blm.gov/pgdata/etc/medialib/blm/nm/programs/more/lands_and_realty/sunzia/sunzia_maps.Par.41410.File.dat/WREZ-sunzia-corridor-map.pdf
3. <http://www.eia.gov/>

- This page is attached to Sjogren’s 21 September 2015 letter to the Line Siting Committee, AZCC. -

Docket No. L-00000YY-15-0318-00171

1-27-2016

Commissioner Andy Tobin
Arizona Corporation Commission
1200 W. Washington St.
Phoenix, AZ 85007

Dear Commissioner Tobin,

The following is in regard to the application for a Certificate of Environmental Compatibility for the proposed SunZia Transmission Line. We request that you deny this certificate, based largely on economic grounds as explained below. If you feel that you must grant this CEC, please include the condition at the end of this letter.

First, a brief background. For the past six years, various groups in Arizona have researched and authored reports, met with utility and regulatory agencies and lobbied state legislators, all in an effort to demonstrate that the proposed SunZia Transmission Line project is not in Arizona's best interests, is largely a deception, and will in the long-term result in lower revenues for the State Land Department than would be achieved by capitalizing on the largely untapped potential for environmental tourism in the San Pedro Valley from Benson north to San Manuel.

This economic potential has long been demonstrated in the upper San Pedro Valley. The portion of the Valley that would be despoiled if the ACC grants a CEC to SunZia arguably has greater potential than does the upper San Pedro Valley. This is the wildest and most scenic portion of the San Pedro Valley and thus has high potential for the eco-tourism business long enjoyed by merchants in the upper San Pedro Valley. With the recently proposed Vigneto mega-development near Benson, the potential for financial returns from eco-tourism has become far larger than the dubious benefits from SunZia.

The most likely outcome of granting a Certificate of Environmental Compatibility for the proposed SunZia project is that a) it will severely degrade a relatively pristine portion of the San Pedro Valley, b) that it will thus diminish the potential for eco-tourism, that c) by establishing a linear utility corridor, future utilities will be encouraged to co-locate and that d) the accumulation of infrastructure will discourage the efforts of advocates to continue protecting this part of the San Pedro Valley for its unique qualities of wildness and eco-tourism potential.

The SunZia project has been promoted by the applicant as a renewable energy project to bring "stranded" wind generated power from east-central New Mexico to the Pinal Central substation near Casa Grande. The best available feasibility study (for the now abandoned High Plains Express project, of which SunZia was originally a part) clearly demonstrated that a full-build of the SunZia project is not economical in the absence of a carbon tax, which we do not think you would support.

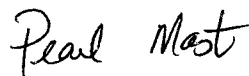
We believe the only portion of this project that will ever be built is from the proposed Willow substation near Bowie in far southeastern Arizona to the Pinal Central substation near Casa

substation near Bowie in far southeastern Arizona to the Pinal Central substation near Casa Grande. The route would be through the San Pedro Valley as described above.

Our request is simply that if a CEC is granted, that the SunZia project be required to prove that it is what it has been promoted to be since the applicant began the permitting process six years ago. Such a condition is very simple: That SunZia be completed from the Willow substation eastward to the wind fields near Corona, New Mexico, before construction is allowed to proceed from Willow to Pinal Central.

A connection with Tucson Electric Power's 345kV line at the proposed Willow Substation would provide adequate power to energize the SunZia line for testing and security purposes.

Thank you for your consideration in this matter.

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "David Omick".A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Pearl Mast".

David Omick and Pearl Mast,
6146 N. Canyon Rd.
Benson, AZ 85602
520-212-4628